(b) if so, the details of the projects involving inter-State aspects;

(c) whether any tribunal has been set up to resolve the issues; and

(d) the steps taken by government to resolve the issues for smooth implementation of the projects?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Disinvestment in PGCIL

2429. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is going to disinvest its equity in Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (PGCIL);

(b) if so, by when; and

(c) how much Government equity will be disinvested in PGCIL?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) to (c) Raising equity resources through an Initial Public Offering (IPO) for meeting its growth needs is one of the options for Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. No decision has been taken in this regard as yet.

Renewal of power purchasing agreement by NTPC

2430. SHRIMATI S.G INDIRA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Thermal Power Corporation had reached to a broad understanding on the terms for renewing the bilateral power purchase agreement which expired in February, 2005 with a State Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) and (b) Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) signed with Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB) for supply of power from NTPC's Kayamkulam Station (360 MW) was due to expire on 28.2.2005. However, the above PPA has a continuity clause as follows:

In case Bulk Power Recipient continues to get power from Kayamkulam Power Station even after expiry of this Agreement without further renewal or formal extension thereof then all the provisions of this agreement shall

continue to operate till this agreement is formally renewed, extended or replaced.

While, extension of PPA with KSEB has been under discussion with NTPC, KSEB desired allocation of 180 MW cheaper from NTPC Stations for pooling with Kayamkulam power for continuation of PPA. Ministry of Power *vide* order dated 24.2.2005 have made special allocation of 110 MW from Eastern Region (ER) stations of NTPC. KSEB has now agreed to renew the PPA for 180 MW from Kayamkulam for a further period of two years from 1.3.2005 or until LNG is available for use at Kayamkulam, whichever is earlier.

Distribution of power to household by NTPC

2431. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) will start distribution of electricity to individual households;

(b) if so, by when;

(c) whether NTPC is going to set up a separate subsidiary for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) to (d) National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has decided to diversify into retail distribution of electricity. A wholly owned subsidiary of NTPC 'NTPC Electric Supply Company Limited (NESCL)' was incorporated on 21 st August, 2002 with the objective to acquire, establish and operate electricity distribution network in various circles/cities across India and take up assignments in the area of distribution management.

Thermal Power Project at Mauda in Maharashtra

2432. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether in **a** review meeting dated 2nd July, 2003 on capacity addition on Power Sector reform of the State of Maharashtra the then Power Minister had directed NTPC to prepare a feasibility report of 1000 MW Thermal Power Project at Mauda, Distt. Nagpur within six months;

(b) whether NTPC has proposed for setting up 1000 MW Coal Thermal Power Station at Mauda;